

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 SAJ-01 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 COME-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3741

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOVIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GE, PL

SUBJECT: GDR COVERAGE OF POLISH SITUATION.

1. RECENT EVENTS IN POLAND HAVE COME IN FOR EXTENSIVE TREATMENT IN THE EAST GERMAN PRESS INCLUDING THE TEXTS OF RECENT GIEREK SPEECHES AT THE 5TH PZPR CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING AND THE 8TH POLISH UNION CONFERENCE DEALING OPENLY WITH DOMESTIC PROBLEMS. THE AMOUNT OF COVERAGE INDICATES THAT THE SED IS ATTEMPTING TO SHOW THE EAST GERMAN POPULATION THAT THINGS ARE WORSE IN POLAND THAN IN THE GDR BUT THAT GIEREK IS DEALING WITH THE SITUATION.

2. NEUES DEUTSCHLAND COVERAGE OF THE PZPR MEETING, CARRIED CONSISTENTLY ON PAGE 6, REPORTS THAT CALLS FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INCREASED PRODUCTIVITY DISCIPLINE AND A STRONGER ROLE

FOR THE PARTY IN SOLVING POLANDS PROBLEMS WERE IMPOR-
TANT THEMES. ON DECEMBER 2, ND CARRIED A HALF PAGE
OF EXCEPRTS FROM GIEREK'S SPEECH AT THE MEETING. INCLUDED
ARE HIS REMARKS ON ANTI-COMMUNISTS AND REACTIONARIES
WHO PRACTICE "DIVERSION" AGAINST THE SOCIALIST COUN-
TRIES AND HIS ATTACK ON "ULTRA REACTIONARY EST GERMAN
CIRCLES" WHO DEFEND DEMOCRATIC FREEDOM IN POLAND ONLY
IN ORDER TO STOP DETENTE AND TO ATTEMPT TO DRIVE A WEDGE
BETWEEN POLAND AND THE SOVIET UNION. HIS STATEMENT THAT
COLD WAR FORCES WILL NOT EASILY FIND SUPPORT IN POLAND
IS ALSO COVERED BY ND, AS IS HIS CHARACTERIZATION OF
"BOURGEOIS REVISIONISTS" AT HOME WHO ATTEMPT TO CREATE
UNREST IN POLAND AND HIS WARNING TO THOSE WHO WOULD
FRIVOLOUSLY LEND THEIR EAR TO PLAND'S ENEMIES.

3. ON DECEMBER 7, ND BROUGHT EXCERPTS FROM GIEREK'S
SPEECH TO THE EIGHTH POLISH UNION CONGRESS IN WARSAW
ATTENDED BY AN FDGB DELEGATION HEADED BY ITS CHAIRMAN,
SED POLITBURO MEMBER HARRY TISCH. ND REPORTS GIEREK'S
REMARK THAT THE PAST SIX YEARS OF SOCIALIST DEVELOPMENT
IN POLAND HAVE BEEN "NO EASY TASK" AND
HIS CRITICISM OF WASTE AND MISMANAGEMENT IN THE
POLISH ECONOMY. IT INCLUDES GIEREK'S EXHORTATION TO
POLISH UNIONS TO MEET PROBLEMS IN A TIMELY FASHION
AND TO PREVENT CONFLICT SITUATIONS AND QUOTES GIEREK
DIRECTLY THAT "EVERY QUESTION - EVEN THE MOST DIFFICULT
- WILL BE RESOLVED IN ANATMOSPHERE OF EARNESTNESS AND
CALM FOR THE GOOD OF THE COUNTRY". FINALLY, IT REPORTS
GIEREK'S ASSURANCES THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO RESOLVE
CONTESTED QUESTIONS IN A LEGAL MANNER IN POLAND.

4. ND COVERAGE OF TISH'S REMARKS AT THE UNION CONGRESS
TAKES SECOND PLACE TO GIEREK, NOTING ONLY HIS
PRAISE FOR BROTHERLY RELATIONS BETWEEN POLISH AND
GDR LABOR UNIONS AND FOR CLOSE TIES WITH THE SOVIET
UNION WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR UNION MOVEMBER.

5. COMMENT: THE GDR APPEARS TO BE ENGAGING IN UNUSUALLY
STRAIGHT-FORWARD COVERAGE OF GIEREK'S REMARKS ON THE
POLISH SITUATION, MOST LIKELY FOR TWO REASONS. FIRST,
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TO LET THE GDR CITIZENRY KNOW THAT THEIR LOT, IT NOT
IDEAL, IS AT LEAST BETTER THAN THAT OF THEIR EASTERN
NEIGHBORS. THE GDR'S SUCCESS THUS FAR IN AGRICULTURE AND
IN HOLDING BASIC CONSUMER PRICES STABLE ARE LENT STILL
GREATER PROPAGANDA VALUE BY LETTING IN ENOUGH INFORMA-
TION ABOUT POLAND'S DIFFICULTIES ON BOTH SCORES TO
ALLOW A COMPARISON. AND SECOND, TO PORTRAY TO THE EAST
GERMAN POPULATION AN IMAGE OF GIEREK DEALING VIGOROUSLY

AND STRAIGHT-FORWARDLY WITH POLAND'S PROBLEMS SO AS
TO QUELL SPECULATION THAT THE SITUATION MIGHT GET
OUT OF HAND.

6. WE ARE INTRIGUED THAT GIEREK CHOSE TO SINGLE OUT
REACTIONARY CIRCLES IN THE FRG WHILE TALKING ABOUT HIS
OWN DISSIDENTS. THIS IS EXACTLY THE TACK THE SED HAS
TAKEN ON THE BIERMANN OUSTER IN ACCUSING BIERMANN,
HAVEMANN AND THOSE WHO SIGNED A CONTROVERSIAL PETITION
ON THE OUSTER BY LETTING THEMSELVES BE USED BY FRG MEDIA
AND PLAYING INTO THE HANDS OF FRG REVANCHISTS. POLANSKY

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